

CONFIDENTIAL
LIMDIS

DOCUMENT ID: 32614022
INQNO: DOC9D 00208875
DOCNO: TEL 001827 88
PRODUCER: USBERLIN
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19880616
TOR: 161655
DOCPREC: P
ORIGDATE: 198806161635
MHFNO: 88 9284334
DOCCLASS: C
CAVEATS: LIMDIS

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT

HEADER
PP RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
UTS5841
PP RUEHC
DE RUFHJA #1827/01 1681636
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 161635Z JUN 88
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4769
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY 6123
RUFHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 7892
BT

CONTROLS
C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 01827

LIMDIS

BONN FOR LEGAL ADVISER AND LEGATT WOLFENBURGER
DEP'T FOR L/LEI: DAVID STEWART; EUR/CE

TEXT
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, BZ
SUBJECT: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF BDC THEFTS:
- US AND UK ELEMENTS

REFS: A) KOBLITZ-WOLFENBURGER 6/15 TELECON B) USBER
1572 C) BONN 14126 (NOTAL) D) USBER 1267 E) USBER
1218 F) USBER 1191 G) USBER 1163 H) USBER 1154
I) USBER 1572

1. BERLIN PROSECUTORS CONTINUE THEIR VIGOROUS
INVESTIGATION OF THE THEFT OF NAZI DOCUMENTS FROM
THE BERLIN DOCUMENT CENTER. REF B PROVIDES A
COMPREHENSIVE STATUS REPORT ON THE CASE. SEE ACTION
REQUESTED FOR EMBASSIES BONN AND LONDON.

2. FOR BONN: ON JUNE 1 BERLIN PROSECUTORS
SUBMITTED A FORMAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST TO BE
FORWARDED THROUGH GERMAN CHANNELS TO THE USG. SINCE

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
☐ Retain class'n
☒ Declassify
Change/classify to _____
with concurrence of _____
after _____
EO 12958, 25X
IPS/CR/IR by DI Date: 8/30/01

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH ^{ed} State

LIMDIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
LIMDIS

THE REQUEST IS URGENT AND INVOLVES MAJOR USG INTERESTS, MISSION WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF FBI, PER REF TELECON, ASSISTED BERLIN PROSECUTOR WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS.

3. A US CITIZEN NAMED PETER STAHL (BEVERLY COURT, MERCED, CALIFORNIA), WHO IS A TRADER IN MILITARIA, HAS TOLD BERLIN PROSECUTORS THAT HE HAS SEEN A NUMBER OF STOLEN BDC FILES ON THE MARKET IN THE US. SPECIFICALLY STAHL STATED THAT EMILIE CALDWELL STEWART OF TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY WAS OFFERING BDC FILES FOR SALE, INCLUDING **KLAUS BARBIE'S** SS PERSONNEL FILE. AS A RESULT OF THIS TIP THE BDC CHECKED AND DETERMINED THAT BARBIE'S PERSONNEL FILE HAS INDEED BEEN STOLEN FROM THE CENTER.

4. STAHL HAS TOLD THE BERLIN PROSECUTOR THAT HE TRIED TO INTEREST UNNAMED US AUTHORITIES IN HIS CHARGES AND WAS REBUFFED. AS A RESULT, HE HAS WRITTEN THE BERLIN PROSECUTOR IN CHARGE OF THE CASE, DETLEF MEHLIS, THAT HE WILL ONLY DISCUSS THE CASE WITH HIM.

5. ACTION REQUESTED BONN: MISSION WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE FBI COULD APPROACH STAHL AND DETERMINE WHETHER HE WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE FBI. THE FBI CAN ASSURE STAHL THAT THEY ARE WORKING IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH MR. MEHLIS OF THE BERLIN PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE. MEHLIS IS PREPARED TO FLY TO CALIFORNIA IN MID-JULY, IF HIS PRESENCE WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE. MEHLIS ALSO HOPES THAT STAHL'S ASSERTIONS WILL SUFFICE FOR A SEARCH WARRANT TO BE ISSUED IN NEW JERSEY AND A SEARCH OF STEWART'S HOUSE AND OFFICE TO BE CARRIED OUT.

6. THE INVESTIGATION IS POLITICALLY EXTREMELY SENSITIVE AND MEHLIS BELIEVES THAT STAHL IS A KEY WITNESS. STEWART HAS TOLD STAHL THAT SHE RECEIVED THE DOCUMENTS FROM A "FRIEND IN THE BERLIN DOCUMENT CENTER". TWO GERMAN EMPLOYEES OF THE CENTER HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND WILL DOUBTLESS BE CHARGED WITH THEFT. ONE HAS ALREADY TRIED TO SHIFT THE BLAME TO OTHERS IN THE CENTER, INCLUDING THE SOLE AMERICAN EMPLOYEE OF THE CENTER. IT IS THEREFORE VITAL THAT STEWART'S PREMISES BE SEARCHED BEFORE SHE IS TIPPED OFF REGARDING THE CHARGES AND THAT SHE SUPPLY ANY EVIDENCE SHE HAS ON CONTACTS AT THE BDC.

7. MISSION IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR FIRST-RATE FBI ASSISTANCE IN UTICA AND KANSAS CITY ON OTHER DIMENSIONS OF THE CASE AND IS CONFIDENT THAT THE POLITICALLY EXPLOSIVE NATURE OF THE CASE IS UNDERSTOOD.

8. FOR LONDON: PROSECUTOR MEHLIS HAS ALSO SUBMITTED AN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST

CONFIDENTIAL
LIMDIS

TO BRITISH AUTHORITIES. HE HAS INFORMATION THAT A
BRITISH MILITARY DOCUMENT DEALER NAMED E. SAYER, 161
STAIZES RD., HOUNSLOW, MIDDLESEX BOUGHT AT LEAST
2,000 STOLEN BDC DOCUMENTS FROM A MUNICH AUCTIONEER
IN 1986 AND 1987 FOR A TOTAL OF BETWEEN 100,000 AND
120,000 GERMAN MARKS. THE PROSECUTOR IS CERTAIN
THAT SAYER KNEW HE WAS BUYING STOLEN USG PROPERTY:
HE HAD CORRESPONDED WITH THE BDC SINCE 1982 AND HAD
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USBERLIN 01827

LIMDIS

BONN FOR LEGAL ADVISER AND LEGATT WOLFENBURGER
DEP'T FOR L/LEI: DAVID STEWART; EUR/CE

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, BZ
SUBJECT: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF BDC THEFTS:

RECEIVED, LEGALLY, OVER 1500 COPIES OF BDC DOCUMENTS
FROM THE CENTER ITSELF AND SAYER PAID FAR LESS THAN
THE MARKET PRICE FOR THE BDC ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS HE
BOUGHT.

9. BERLIN PROSECUTOR MEHLIS HAS ASKED THE UK
AUTHORITIES TO SEARCH SAYER'S HOME AND OFFICE AND
SEIZE ANY BDC DOCUMENTS. MISSION IS PREPARED, IN
CONJUNCTION WITH MEHLIS, TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN
IDENTIFYING STOLEN BDC DOCUMENTS.

10. ACTION REQUESTED LONDON: MISSION WOULD BE
GRATEFUL IF EMBASSY LONDON COULD EXPRESS USG
INTEREST IN A PROMPT AND FORTHCOMING RESPONSE TO THE
GERMAN REQUEST. IN LIGHT OF THE SUBSTANTIAL VALUE
OF THE STOLEN USG PROPERTY AND THE POLITICAL
SENSITIVITY OF THE CASE, IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY
HELPFUL IF HMG COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE, WHETHER OR
NOT THE FORMAL REQUEST HAS REACHED THE FCO.
GILMORE

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL